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OLC 70-0763

26 October 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Bill Woodruff, Counsel,
Senate Appropriations Committee**

1. On this date John Maury and I met with Bill Woodruff to discuss the possibility of the Director visiting Senator Russell in Winder, Georgia. The Director previously advised us that the desirability of such a meeting had come up in a conversation between Senator Russell and Secretary Laird and was relayed to the Director by Richard Capen, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs).
2. Woodruff said Capen had been "badgering" him all weekend about this and had talked with him again this morning. Woodruff plans to talk with Senator Russell about it this afternoon. Woodruff is not anxious to be involved in this kind of meeting and said he hoped it did not turn out to be a situation where the two men got together on the assumption that the other had requested the meeting. He added that Senator Russell would be busy with personal family matters through Wednesday of this week and he doubted that anything would develop before Thursday or Friday, if at all.
3. We told Woodruff that the Director is willing to see Senator Russell anytime the Senator desires and he obviously wants to talk with the Senator about his recent trip to Southeast Asia. We made it clear, however, that the Director was not pressing to see Senator Russell in Georgia and could wait until the Senator returns to Washington although he would like to have a private meeting with him prior to our budget session, tentatively scheduled for 19 November.

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4. Woodruff was obviously irritated with both Laird and Capen over a number of things including this latest development which Woodruff believes was inspired more by the Secretary than Senator Russell. He said Capen has talked with him about Secretary Laird's desire that Senator Russell "pull Senator Ellender off the Defense Appropriations bill" when it comes up for floor debate in the Senate. He believes that Laird is pushing the idea that if Russell doesn't manage the Defense bill that he have Senator Stennis manage it and Woodruff made it clear that he would have no part of this latter arrangement. He said DOD was having enough problems in the Executive Branch without trying to run the Congress.

5. We then talked about the budget meeting. Woodruff said we should be prepared to discuss the request for a [] supplement to our Reserve even though it is fairly clear that the Senate Subcommittee will approve only [] (He indicated that this would be treated as a [] cut.) He suggested we take the position that we might very well need the [] depending on circumstances. Woodruff recalls that Colonel White said at our regular budget hearing in May that we were very concerned about the level of our Reserve and might have to come back to our Committee to increase it.

6. Woodruff also suggested that we discuss the matter of the impact of the Fulbright amendment on programs in Southeast Asia. He recommends that we review these programs individually and discuss the impact of the amendment as we understand it. He said the Subcommittee would also want a world wrap-up at this time.

7. With regard to the Fulbright amendment, Woodruff again said there was no question but that the amendment language will be in the Defense bill as it is reported out of the Senate Committee. He went on to say that if Senator Russell manages the bill he will merely call the Senator's attention to some of the problems involved and let the Senator decide how to handle it. On the other hand, if Senator Ellender handles the bill, he will recommend that Ellender ask Laird and the Director to review our programs with Senator Fulbright before the bill goes to the floor.

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Deputy Legislative Counsel

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